Drug Development in the country

797. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures his Ministry is taking or propose to take to make India a leader in the drug development; and

(b) what is the amount that his Ministry had been planning on the R&D during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Several measures have been taken from time to time by the Government of India to make the country a leader in the drug development. Some of these are:

- Outlay for Research and Development (R&D) in drug development has been increased.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) has established a Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) which supports the Drugs & Pharma Research Programme.
- The Technology Development Board (TDB) of the DST is supporting research and commercialization in the private sector, with good result.
- The Department of Scienctific & Industrial Research (DSIR) has similarly initiated Programme Aimed at Technological Self Reliance (PATSER) and New Millennium India Technology Leadership Initiatives (NMITLI) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The following state-of-art research facilities for drug research development have been established:

1. Pharmacokinetic and Metabolic Studies and Central Drug Research Laboratory (CDRI), Lucknow.
2. Combinatorial Chemistry-cum-Medium Throughput Screening at CDRI, Lucknow.
3. Transgenic and Gene Knock-out Mice at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.

4. Bio-availability at National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Chandigarh.

5. Genomics Research for Drug Discovery at Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi.

6. Identification of Immunomodulating Potential of Products and Extracts of Natural Origin at Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata.

7. Strengthening of Pharmacological Testing Facilities at CDRI, Lucknow.

8. Characterisation of Crystals of Biological Macromolecules of Medicinal and Industrial Importance at Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore.

- DSIR approved lab. in the private sector can avail of tax deduction upto 150 per cent of the expenditure on R&D.

However, there is a need to go substantially beyond these initiatives to make the country a global leader and the Government proposes to take the necessary steps.

(b) During the last three years Ministry of Science and Technology has spent Rs. 4948 lakhs in 2001-02, Rs. 6340 lakhs in 2002-03 and Rs. 8910 lakhs in 2003-04 respectively on Drug Development R&D in the country.

Forecasting of outbreak of dreaded diseases

798. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Biology Division of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, is coming-up with a Bio-Informatics software capable of forecasting the out-break of the dreaded Japanese Encephalitis and dengue fever in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether sufficient funds had been released for this important project, to expedite the results;